establishment of 65 new polytechnics in the country and also by providing financial assistance for upgradation of infrastructural facilities in 177 existing polytechnics. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has permitted double shifts in those diploma level institutions where adequate infrastructure, faculty and other facilities are available. AICTE has also relaxed the norms for land requirement for establishment of diploma level institutes by fifty per cent. In order to meet the shortage of teachers in the polytechnics, the faculty student ratio has been reduced from 1: 15 to 1 :20.

Allocations for higher education

2792. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the department of higher education has put hold to the allocations amounting to Rs. 3,164 crore on account of the apex court's stay order on quota;

(b) whether the department of higher education was allocated Rs. 6,483 crore in the Budget 2007-08 of which Rs. 3,164 crore was to implement the recommendations of the Veerappa Moily Committee;

(c) whether the Ministry has to decide the financial issues and also the Ministry of Finance is reconsidering levying the 1 per cent additional cess for secondary and higher education; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 6483 crores has been allocated for Higher Education, out of which Rs. 3275.00 crores has been earmarked for implementation of the Oversight Committee recommendations for infrastructure development in Central Educational Institutions. However, the reservation in admission for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) has been stayed by the Apex Court.

(c) The Government has already decided to levy 1% additional cess for secondary and higher education during 2007-08.

(d) It is not possible to give any specific timeframe in which the Apex court may decide the matter.

Sexual harassment at Delhi University

2793. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken cognizance of the delay being caused by the Vice-Chancellor, University of Delhi, in taking action on the recommendations of Sexual Harassment Committee, which submitted its report to VC in June last;

(b) whether it is a fact that the victims and a witness of the sexual harassment case are being harassed in many ways; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to ensure timely action in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) In accordance with Ordinance XV-D of the Ordinances of the University of Delhi the Apex Complaint Committee constituted by the University to look into the cases of alleged sexual harassment submits its report which are processed and placed before the Executive Council (EC) for consideration and decision. These reports are processed in chronological order. The EC in its meeting held on 20th August, 2007 considered two such reports and has decided to initiate the process to terminate the services of two teachers.

(b) According to information furnished by Delhi University there has been no case of harassment of victim (s) and witnesses.

(c) Does not arise.

Tiny books for little children

2794. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are introducing graded self-reading series of tiny books for little children; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The National Council of Educational Research and Training has launched a reading programme for the early grades of the primary stage, as an exemplar for States to build their own programmes for strengthening childrens' reading skills.

Setting up of primary schools with World Bank aid

†2795. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the locations in rural areas where primary schools have been set up with World Bank aid, as on date, State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated for this purpose during each of the last three years, till date, State-wise; and

(c) the locations in rural areas where primary schools are proposed to be set up with World Bank aid in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The World Bank and other external funding agencies reimburse the expenditure incurred by the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.